

Weather Forecast
Clear, cold today, tomorrow; high near 27; low tonight near 10.
Temperatures today—Highest, 31, at 12:01 a.m.; lowest, 14, at 9 a.m.; 21 at 1:30 p.m. Yesterday—Highest, 40, at 4:20 p.m.; lowest, 20, at 7:40 a.m.
Late New York Markets, Page A-17.

The Evening Star

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

Guide for Readers

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An Associated Press Newspaper

93d YEAR. No. 36,797. WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1945—THIRTY-THREE PAGES. 5 CENTS.

REDS REACH SOLDIN, 58 MILES FROM BERLIN

Armored Battles Rage in Snow; U. S. 1st Army Shells West Wall

Other Russian Forces 62 Miles From Capital

BULLETIN.—Red Army troops have captured Landsberg, 68 miles east of Berlin, Premier Stalin announced tonight. The city is a great rail and road junction on the Berlin-Danzig line. Marshal Gregory Zhukov's plume toward Berlin also toppled Meseritz, Schwiebus and Zullichau, southeast of Landsberg.

Map on Page A-4.
LONDON, Jan. 31.—German broadcasts today declared Red Army columns had spread within 58 and 62 miles of Berlin, and fierce armored battles were reported churning the snow-drifted front within 20 miles of the Oder River.

Nazi broadcasts said Marshal Gregory Zhukov's troops had reached Soldin, 58 miles northeast of Berlin's city limits, and Zielenzig, 35 miles to the south and 62 miles due east of the capital. Zielenzig is 55 miles from the suburbs included in Greater Berlin.

At Soldin, Zhukov's forces were within 36 miles of Stettin on the Baltic as his flank drives north and south increased the peril to Berlin. If Stettin is reached, all of North-eastern Germany will be looted off Moscow dispatches said. The Red Army was only 60 miles from Kossin, Baltic port midway between Stettin and Danzig.

Columns Reach Oder. Zhukov's columns hitting southwestward reached the Oder at a point about 38 miles southeast of Zielenzig and near Grunberg. German broadcasts reported fighting northeast of Grunberg, but gave no indication that Zhukov actually had forced the Oder to reach Grunberg.

Zhukov's troops were close to a linkup with the 1st Ukrainian Army of Marshal Ivan Konev, which has stormed over the Oder farther south in Silesia, and were in position for a possible drive westward to outflank Frankfurt and the main Oder line before Berlin.

Zielenzig is 20 miles from the Oder and Soldin is 24.

Meanwhile, indications mounted that the Germans were preparing to fight street by street for Berlin. Later in the day the Nazis issued a partial blackout on news broadcasts at homeland abroad.

A German broadcast at noon said Zhukov's infantrymen were keeping up with armored spearheads driving toward Berlin on a wide front.

Fierce Battle Raging. Fierce battles are raging in the bend formed by the Oder and Warthe Rivers, which merge at Kustrin, 22 miles northwest of Zielenzig, Berlin said. Zielenzig is 25 miles northeast of the Oder River fortress city of Frankfurt and is 22 miles east of Kustrin.

Heavy fighting occurred at Zielenzig, Meseritz and Wuburg, the Germans said, while Moscow reported that the advance had been retarded somewhat by blizzards.

Today's German broadcast said Russian attacks from their bridgeheads across the Oder in Upper Silesia were stopped and in the center declared "our troops engaged in heavy battle against enemy infantry and tank forces pushing to the west in the Oder-Warthe bend."

High Nazis already have pledged fight "before, in and behind" Berlin and repeated in Swedish newspapers said the German high command would formally declare Berlin a fortified city to be defended "stone by stone."

Moscow dispatches declared Zhukov's tanks were sweeping westward in deep snows in a new spirit toward the Oder east of Berlin and quoted captured German officers as saying the Nazi positions broken in Brandenburg were "the last strong defense line before the Oder."

Great armored battles were reported in which German Tiger tanks were pitted against Stalin tanks of the Russians. In East Prussia the capital of Konigsberg was nearly surrounded (See RUSSIA, Page A-4.)

Nazi Radio Warns 'Few' Wishing to Desert Reich

Other Broadcasts Tell Of Millions of Refugees Fleeing Toward Berlin.

By the Associated Press.
LONDON, Jan. 31.—Some German broadcasts today declared the Berlin radio said today, but declared that "those cowardly creatures who try to desert the Fatherland in its hour of need are relatively few among our people."

Echoing Hitler's cry for a German fight to the death, the radio issued new warnings to those who were ready to quit.

"We shall not permit them to throw a wrench in the works," one Nazi broadcast declared.

"Germany will fight on no matter where or under what conditions," the Berlin radio said, as other German broadcasts declared.

(See GERMANY, Page A-3.)

Hitler Exhorts Nazis To Accept Misery as Price of Victory

Victory Pledge Renewed Despite 'Cruel Fate' Advancing From East

By the Associated Press.
LONDON, Jan. 31.—The German nation, beset by powerful invading armies, today embarked on the 13th year of the Nazi regime, exhorted by Adolf Hitler to accept "boundless misery" as the price of continued resistance.

Germany, Hitler proclaimed to the world last night, will fight on to the death, "fight on no matter where and no matter under what circumstances until final victory crowns our efforts."

His speech marking the 12th anniversary of his ascendency to the chancellery on January 30, 1933, was broadcast by his headquarters amid news of continuing Russian advances from the east.

"The cruel fate which is overtaking us in the east, in village and market places, in the country and in towns, is exterminating (German) people by the tens of thousands," Hitler declared. "But it will be mastered in the end."

Claims Divine Mission. Hitler twice asserted that God had given him a mission. "The Almighty" saved him from assassination, he declared, and he saw in this "confirmation of my assigned task."

The man who sent his armed legions into virtually every country of Europe gave the German people a promise of victory despite his growing reverses.

When "this most gigantic of all world dramas will have ebbed and peace bells will ring," Hitler declared, still the head of Europe will be "that nation (Germany) which has led Europe for one and one-half thousands of years as the leading power against the east."

As Hitler spoke there were growing indications that President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin already may have met.

Seemingly taking into consideration a possible "surrender now" demand by the "Big Three," Hitler declared: "Every promise these statesmen are making to their people is of no importance because they cannot fulfill their assurances."

Defies Allied Leaders. In the ringing tones of all his old time eloquence, he flung defiance at the Allied leaders: "As a ruthless National Socialist and a warrior of my nation I want to assure these statesmen once and forever that any attempt to influence National Socialist Germany by Wilsonian phrases shows a naïveté which is unknown in the Germany of today."

He pictured Germany as the bulwark of Europe.

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